

# Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council

## Fact Sheet

### Highlands Region

- Total area: 859,267 acres (approximately 1,343 square miles).
- Provides drinking water for over 5 million residents of New Jersey.
- Highlands Act, passed in 2004, divided region into Preservation Area and Planning area.
- Approximately 415,000 acres in the Preservation Area.
- Approximately 444,000 acres in the Planning Area.
- Development is more strictly regulated in the Preservation Area than the Planning Area.

### Highlands Communities

- 88 municipalities (within 7 counties) have lands within the Highlands Region.
- 47 have lands in both Planning and Preservation Areas.
- 36 have lands only in the Planning Area.
- 5 have lands only within the Preservation Area.

### Timeline of Highlands Act and Regional Master Plan

- 1992 – U.S. Forest Service issues a report on the New York and New Jersey Highlands, which serves as an impetus for efforts to protect the natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands.
- 2002 – U.S. Forest Service study is updated, finding an 11 percent increase in population in the New York and New Jersey Highlands Region from 1990 to 2000.
- 2004 – The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act is enacted by the State of New Jersey.
- 2006 – Draft Regional Master Plan released for public comment.
- 2007 – Final Draft of the Regional Master Plan released for public comment.
- 2008 – Regional Master Plan approved by Highlands Council and becomes effective.

### Plan Conformance

- Highlands Act requires counties and municipalities to align local master plans and development regulations with the Regional Master Plan for Preservation Area lands.
- Conformance for Planning Area lands is voluntary.

### Municipal Petitions and Approvals (As of July 2015)

- 59 municipalities (of 88 total in the Region) are engaged in the Plan Conformance Process (have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance)
  - 28 of the 59 Petitions submitted include only Preservation Area lands
  - 31 of the 59 Petitions submitted include Planning Area lands (8 of these municipalities have only Planning Area lands)
- 49 municipal Petitions for Plan Conformance have been approved by the Highlands Council.

### County Petitions and Approvals (As of July 2015)

- 5 counties (of the 7 in the Region) have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance, all conforming for Preservation Area lands only.
- 2 county Petitions for Plan Conformance have been approved by the Highlands Council.

# Highlands Municipalities By County & with Plan Conformance Petition Status

as of July 2015

## **Bergen County** \*◇

Mahwah Township \*◆✓

Oakland Borough \*◆✓

## **Hunterdon County** \*

Alexandria Township \* ◇✓

Bethlehem Township \*◆✓

Bloomsbury Borough ‡◆✓

Califon Borough ‡◆✓

Clinton Town \*◆✓

Clinton Township \*◆✓

Glen Gardner Borough ‡◆✓

Hampton Borough \*◆✓

High Bridge Borough †◆✓

Holland Township \*◆✓

Lebanon Borough †◆✓

Lebanon Township \*◆✓

Milford Borough †

Tewksbury Township \*◆✓

Union Township \*◆

## **Morris County** \*◇

Boonton Town †

Boonton Township \*◇✓

Butler Borough †

Chester Borough †

Chester Township \*◆✓

Denville Township \*◇✓

Dover Town †

Hanover Township †

Harding Township †

Jefferson Township \*◇✓

Kinnelon Borough \*◆✓

Mendham Borough †

Mendham Township †

Mine Hill Township †

Montville Township \*◇✓

Morris Township †

Morris Plains Borough †◆

Morristown Town †

Mountain Lakes Borough †

Mount Arlington Borough \*◇✓

Mount Olive Township \*◇✓

Netcong Borough †

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township †

Pequannock Township \*◇

Randolph Township \*◆✓

Riverdale Borough †

Rockaway Borough †

Rockaway Township \*◆✓

Roxbury Township \*◇✓

Victory Gardens Borough †

Washington Township \*◆✓

Wharton Borough †◆✓

## **Passaic County** \*◇✓

Bloomington Borough \*◆✓

Pompton Lakes Borough †

Ringwood Borough ‡◆✓

Wanaque Borough \*◇

West Milford Township ‡◆✓

## **Somerset County** \*◇✓

Bedminster Township \*◇✓

Bernards Township †

Bernardsville Borough †

Far Hills Borough †◆

Peapack Gladstone Borough †

## **Sussex County** \*◇

Byram Township \*◆✓

Franklin Borough †

Green Township \*◇✓

Hamburg Borough †

Hardyston Township \*◇✓

Hopatcong Borough \*◆✓

Ogdensburg Borough \*◇✓

Sparta Township \*◇✓

Stanhope Borough †◆

Vernon Township \*◇✓

## **Warren County** \*

Allamuchy Township \*◇✓

Alpha Borough †◆✓

Belvidere Town †

Franklin Township †◇✓

Frelinghuysen Township †

Greenwich Township \*◆

Hackettstown Town \*◆✓

Harmony Township \*◇✓

Hope Township †

Independence Township \*◇

Liberty Township \*◇

Lopatcong Township \*◆✓

Mansfield Township \*

Oxford Township \*◆✓

Phillipsburg Town †◆✓

Pohatcong Township \*◆✓

Washington Borough †

Washington Township \*◇✓

White Township \*◇

### **Lands in:**

\* *Planning and Preservation Areas*

† *Planning Area Only*

‡ *Preservation Area Only*

### **Petition status:**

◆ *Petitioning for whole municipality*

◇ *Petitioning for Preservation Area only*

✓ *Petition approved*



**State of New Jersey**  
Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council  
100 North Road (Route 513)  
Chester, New Jersey 07930-2322  
(908) 879-6737  
(908) 879-4205 (fax)  
[www.nj.gov/njhighlands](http://www.nj.gov/njhighlands)

